

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as follows.

ABSTRACT

In a compensating shaft for reciprocating piston engines with at least one compensating weight (22) connected torsionally elastically to the compensating shaft (21), effective noise reduction is ~~to be achieved. For this, use is made of~~ by using an elastic element, preferably one (25) made of plastic of elasticity which is graduated in the circumferential direction, the hard central part (26) having a connection (15) to the compensating shaft (11) which is firm in the circumferential direction, and the soft part (31) bearing against the compensating weight (22).

~~Diagram: Fig. 4~~